AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 27, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 11, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 31, 2011

SENATE BILL

No. 383

Introduced by Senator Wolk

February 15, 2011

An act relating to energy. An act to amend Sections 216 and 218 of, to repeal Section 2826.5 of, and to repeal and add Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 2830) of Part 2 of Division 1 of, the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 383, as amended, Wolk. Renewable energy. Community-Based Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program.

(1) Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory jurisdiction over public utilities, including electrical corporations, as defined. Existing law authorizes the commission to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. Under existing law, the local government renewable energy self-generation program authorizes a local government, as defined, to receive a bill credit, as defined, to be applied to a designated benefiting account for electricity exported to the electrical grid by an eligible renewable generating facility, as defined, and requires the commission to adopt a rate tariff for the benefiting account.

This bill would repeal these provisions and enact the Community-Based Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program. The

 $SB 383 \qquad \qquad -2-$

program would authorize a retail customer of an electric utility to purchase a subscription, as defined, in a community facility, as defined, for the purpose of receiving a bill credit, as defined, to offset all or a portion of the customer's electricity usage, consistent with specified requirements.

Because the provisions of the bill require action by the commission to implement its requirements, a violation of these provisions would impose a state-mandated local program by expanding the definition of a crime.

The bill would provide that any corporation or person engaged directly or indirectly in developing, producing, delivering, participating in, or selling interests in, a community facility is not a public utility or electrical corporation solely by reason of engaging in any of those activities.

(2) Existing law authorizes the City of Davis to receive a bill credit, as defined, to a benefiting account, as defined, for electricity supplied to the electrical grid by a photovoltaic electricity generation facility located within, and partially owned by, the city (PVUSA solar facility) and requires the commission to adopt a rate tariff for the benefiting account.

This bill would repeal these provisions relating to the City of Davis.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Existing law expresses the intent of the Legislature, in establishing the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program, that the amount of electricity generated per year from eligible renewable energy resources be increased to an amount that equals at least 20% of the total electricity sold to retail customers in California per year by December 31, 2010.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to stimulate the development of eligible renewable energy resources, as defined for purposes of the program, by allowing local governments, businesses, residents, and schools to invest in cost-effective, clean, and renewable energy and to create local jobs.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no-yes. State-mandated local program: no-yes.

3 SB 383

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

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SECTION 1. Section 216 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

- 216. (a) "Public utility" includes every common carrier, toll bridge corporation, pipeline corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewer system corporation, and heat corporation, where the service is performed for, or the commodity is delivered to, the public or any portion thereof.
- (b) Whenever any common carrier, toll bridge corporation, pipeline corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewer system corporation, or heat corporation performs a service for, or delivers a commodity to, the public or any portion thereof for which any compensation or payment whatsoever is received, that common carrier, toll bridge corporation, pipeline corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewer system corporation, or heat corporation, is a public utility subject to the jurisdiction, control, and regulation of the commission and the provisions of this part.
- (c) When any person or corporation performs any service for, or delivers any commodity to, any person, private corporation, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state, that in turn either directly or indirectly, mediately or immediately, performs that service for, or delivers that commodity to, the public or any portion thereof, that person or corporation is a public utility subject to the jurisdiction, control, and regulation of the commission and the provisions of this part.
- (d) Ownership or operation of a facility that employs cogeneration technology or produces power from other than a conventional power source or the ownership or operation of a facility which employs landfill gas technology does not make a corporation or person a public utility within the meaning of this section solely because of the ownership or operation of that facility.
- (e) Any corporation or person engaged directly or indirectly in developing, producing, transmitting, distributing, delivering, or selling any form of heat derived from geothermal or solar resources or from cogeneration technology to any privately owned or publicly

SB 383 —4—

owned public utility, or to the public or any portion thereof, is not a public utility within the meaning of this section solely by reason of engaging in any of those activities.

- (f) The ownership or operation of a facility that sells compressed natural gas at retail to the public for use only as a motor vehicle fuel, and the selling of compressed natural gas at retail from that facility to the public for use only as a motor vehicle fuel, does not make the corporation or person a public utility within the meaning of this section solely because of that ownership, operation, or sale.
- (g) Ownership or operation of a facility that is an exempt wholesale generator, as defined in the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 16451(6)), does not make a corporation or person a public utility within the meaning of this section, solely due to the ownership or operation of that facility.
- (h) The ownership, control, operation, or management of an electric plant used for direct transactions or participation directly or indirectly in direct transactions, as permitted by subdivision (b) of Section 365, sales into a market established and operated by the Independent System Operator or any other wholesale electricity market, or the use or sale as permitted under subdivisions (b) to (d), inclusive, of Section 218, shall not make a corporation or person a public utility within the meaning of this section solely because of that ownership, participation, or sale.
- (i) A corporation or person engaged directly or indirectly in developing, producing, delivering, participating in, or selling interests in, a community facility pursuant to Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 2830) of Part 2, is not a public utility within the meaning of this section solely by reason of engaging in any of those activities.
- SEC. 2. Section 218 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:
- 218. (a) "Electrical corporation" includes every corporation or person owning, controlling, operating, or managing any electric plant for compensation within this state, except where electricity is generated on or distributed by the producer through private property solely for its own use or the use of its tenants and not for sale or transmission to others.
- (b) "Electrical corporation" does not include a corporation or person employing cogeneration technology or producing power

5 SB 383

from other than a conventional power source for the generation of electricity solely for any one or more of the following purposes:

(1) Its own use or the use of its tenants.

- (2) The use of or sale to not more than two other corporations or persons solely for use on the real property on which the electricity is generated or on real property immediately adjacent thereto, unless there is an intervening public street constituting the boundary between the real property on which the electricity is generated and the immediately adjacent property and one or more of the following applies:
- (A) The real property on which the electricity is generated and the immediately adjacent real property is not under common ownership or control, or that common ownership or control was gained solely for purposes of sale of the electricity so generated and not for other business purposes.
- (B) The useful thermal output of the facility generating the electricity is not used on the immediately adjacent property for petroleum production or refining.
- (C) The electricity furnished to the immediately adjacent property is not utilized by a subsidiary or affiliate of the corporation or person generating the electricity.
- (3) Sale or transmission to an electrical corporation or state or local public agency, but not for sale or transmission to others, unless the corporation or person is otherwise an electrical corporation.
- (c) "Electrical corporation" does not include a corporation or person employing landfill gas technology for the generation of electricity for any one or more of the following purposes:
- (1) Its own use or the use of not more than two of its tenants located on the real property on which the electricity is generated.
- (2) The use of or sale to not more than two other corporations or persons solely for use on the real property on which the electricity is generated.
- (3) Sale or transmission to an electrical corporation or state or local public agency.
- (d) "Electrical corporation" does not include a corporation or person employing digester gas technology for the generation of electricity for any one or more of the following purposes:
- (1) Its own use or the use of not more than two of its tenants located on the real property on which the electricity is generated.

 $SB 383 \qquad \qquad -6-$

(2) The use of or sale to not more than two other corporations or persons solely for use on the real property on which the electricity is generated.

- (3) Sale or transmission to an electrical corporation or state or local public agency, if the sale or transmission of the electricity service to a retail customer is provided through the transmission system of the existing local publicly owned electric utility or electrical corporation of that retail customer.
- (e) "Electrical corporation" does not include an independent solar energy producer, as defined in Article 3 (commencing with Section 2868) of Chapter 9 of Part 2.
- (f) The amendments made to this section at the 1987 portion of the 1987–88 Regular Session of the Legislature do not apply to any corporation or person employing cogeneration technology or producing power from other than a conventional power source for the generation of electricity that physically produced electricity prior to January 1, 1989, and furnished that electricity to immediately adjacent real property for use thereon prior to January 1, 1989.
- (g) A corporation or person engaged directly or indirectly in developing, producing, delivering, participating in, or selling interests in, a community facility pursuant to Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 2830) of Part 2, is not an electrical corporation within the meaning of this section solely by reason of engaging in any of those activities.
- SEC. 3. Section 2826.5 of the Public Utilities Code is repealed. 2826.5. (a) As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:
- (1) "Benefiting account" means an electricity account, or more than one account, mutually agreed upon by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the City of Davis.
- (2) "Bill credit" means credits calculated based upon the electricity generation component of the rate schedule applicable to a benefiting account, as applied to the net metered quantities of electricity.
- (3) "PVUSA" means the photovoltaic electricity generation facility selected by the City of Davis, located at 24662 County Road, Davis, California, with a rated peak electricity generation capacity of 600 kilowatts, and as it may be expanded, not to exceed one megawatt of peak generation capacity.

7 SB 383

(4) "Net metered" means the electricity output from the PVUSA.

(5) "Environmental attributes" associated with the PVUSA include, but are not limited to, the credits, benefits, emissions reductions, environmental air quality credits, and emissions reduction credits, offsets, and allowances, however entitled resulting from the avoidance of the emission of any gas, chemical, or other substance attributable to the PVUSA.

- (b) The City of Davis may elect to designate a benefiting account, or more than one account, to receive bill credit for the electricity generated by the PVUSA, if all of the following conditions are met:
- (1) A benefiting account receives service under a time-of-use rate schedule.
- (2) The electricity output of the PVUSA is metered for time of use to allow allocation of each bill credit to correspond to the time-of-use period of a benefiting account.
- (3) All costs associated with the metering requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) are the responsibility of the City of Davis.
- (4) All electricity delivered to the electrical grid by the PVUSA is the property of Pacific Gas and Electric Company.
- (5) PVUSA does not sell electricity delivered to the electrical grid to a third party.
- (6) The right, title, and interest in the environmental attributes associated with the electricity delivered to the electrical grid by the PVUSA are the property of Nuon Renewable Ventures USA, LLC.
- (c) A benefiting account shall be billed on a monthly basis, as follows:
- (1) For all electricity usage, the rate schedule applicable to the benefiting account, including any surcharge, exit fee, or other cost recovery mechanism, as determined by the commission, to reimburse the Department of Water Resources for purchases of electricity, pursuant to Division 27 (commencing with Section 80000) of the Water Code.
- (2) The rate schedule for the benefiting account shall also provide credit for the generation component of the time-of-use rates for the electricity generated by the PVUSA that is delivered to the electrical grid. The generation component credited to the benefiting account may not include the surcharge, exit fee, or other cost recovery mechanism, as determined by the commission, to

-8-**SB 383**

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reimburse the Department of Water Resources for purchases of electricity, pursuant to Division 27 (commencing with Section 3 80000) of the Water Code.

- (3) If in any billing cycle, the charge pursuant to paragraph (1) for electricity usage exceeds the billing credit pursuant to paragraph (2), the City of Davis shall be charged for the difference.
- (4) If in any billing cycle, the billing credit pursuant to paragraph (2), exceeds the charge for electricity usage pursuant to paragraph (1), the difference shall be carried forward as a credit to the next billing cycle.
- (5) After the electricity usage charge pursuant to paragraph (1) and the credit pursuant to paragraph (2) are determined for the last billing cycle of a calendar year, any remaining credit resulting from the application of this section shall be reset to zero.
- (d) Not more frequently that once per year, and upon providing Pacific Gas and Electric Company with a minimum of 60 days notice, the City of Davis may elect to change a benefiting account. Any credit resulting from the application of this section earned prior to the change in a benefiting account that has not been used as of the date of the change in the benefit account, shall be applied, and may only be applied, to a benefiting account as changed.
- (e) Pacific Gas and Electric Company shall file an advice letter with the Public Utilities Commission, that complies with this section, not later than 10 days after the effective date of this section, proposing a rate tariff for a benefiting account. The commission, within 30 days of the date of filing, shall approve the proposed tariff, or specify conforming changes to be made by Pacific Gas and Electric Company to be filed in a new advice letter.
- (f) The City of Davis may terminate its election pursuant to subdivision (b), upon providing Pacific Gas and Electric Company with a minimum of 60 days notice. Should the City of Davis sell its interest in the PVUSA, or sell the electricity generated by the PVUSA, in a manner other than required by this section, upon the date of either event, and the earliest date if both events occur, no further bill credit pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) may be earned. Only credit earned prior to that date shall be made to a benefiting account.
- (g) The Legislature finds and declares that credit for a benefiting account for the electricity output from the PVUSA are in the public interest in order to value the production of this unique, wholly

-9- SB 383

renewable resource electricity generation facility located in, and owned in part by, the City of Davis. Because of the unique circumstances applicable only to the PVUSA a statute of general applicability cannot be enacted within the meaning of subdivision (b) of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution. Therefore, this special statute is necessary.

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SEC. 4. Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 2830) of Part 2 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code is repealed.

SEC. 5. Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 2830) is added to Part 2 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

Chapter 7.5. Community-Based Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program

2830. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) Despite the fact that all California utility customers fund current self-generation programs, residential and commercial renters, small businesses, public entities, and low-and moderate-income Californians usually do not have the ability to participate fully in current self-generation programs. The purpose of this chapter is to provide all Californians with the opportunity to self-generate clean, renewable power through the Community-Based Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program. It is in the public interest to promote broader participation in renewable self-generation by California residents, public agencies, and businesses by the development of community renewable energy facilities in which participants are entitled to generate and receive renewable power through an over-the-fence transaction.
- (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that public schools have the authority to invest in renewable power as provided in this chapter. Energy usage is one of the most significant cost pressures facing public schools at a time when schools have been forced to cut essential programs, increase classroom sizes, and send pink slips to teachers throughout the state. Schools may use the savings for restoring funds for salaries, student achievement, facility maintenance, and other budgetary needs. The energy projects that will go forward under this chapter would create new green construction jobs, stimulate the economy, generate funding, and provide more clean renewable power to customers.

— 10 — SB 383

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(c) Community-based renewable power will contribute to the achievement of the 33 percent renewables portfolio standard in a cost-effective manner and will assist in meeting the state's zero net energy buildings goals. This chapter provides job creation, environmental protection, and school funding for those who choose to make the investment in community-based renewable energy self-generation facilities.

- 2831. As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:
- (a) "Benefiting account" means one or more accounts designated to receive a bill credit pursuant to Section 2832.
- (b) "Bill credit" means an amount of money credited to one or more benefiting accounts based on the percentage share of the community facility that is assigned to the account.
- (c) "Community facility" means a renewable energy facility that meets all of the following requirements:
 - (1) Has a generating capacity of no more than 20 megawatts.
- (2) Is an eligible renewable energy resource, as defined in Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Part 1.
- (3) The electrical output of the facility is measured by a production meter capable of recording production in real time.
 - (4) Sells subscriptions to the electrical output of the facility.
 - (5) Is located in California.
- (d) "Electrical utility" means an electrical corporation, as defined in Section 218.
- (e) "Local government" means a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, political subdivision, or other local governmental entity.
- (f) "Subscriber" means a retail customer of an electric utility who owns a subscription and who has designated one or more benefiting accounts to which the subscription shall be attributed, including a local government, the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California.
- (g) "Subscriber organization" means any for-profit or nonprofit organization or business, created and operating pursuant to law, whose purpose is to beneficially own or operate a community facility for the subscribers to the community facility.
 - (h) "Subscription" means an interest in a community facility.
- 2832. (a) (1) A retail customer of an electrical utility may 40 purchase a subscription in a community facility for the purpose

-11- SB 383

of receiving a bill credit to offset all or a portion of the customer's electricity usage. The subscriber shall designate one or more benefiting accounts to which the subscription shall be attributed.

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- (2) To be eligible to be designated as a benefiting account, the account shall be for service to premises located within the geographical boundaries of the service territory of the electrical utility containing the community facility, or within the geographical boundaries of a contiguous service territory, if the electrical utility and the utility for that service territory have entered into an agreement enabling the connection of the benefiting account to the community facility.
- (3) The benefiting account shall be metered on a time-of-use tariff.
- (b) (1) For community facilities that are interconnected at the transmission level, the bill credit shall be calculated based upon the time-of-use electricity generation component of the electricity usage charge of the benefiting account, multiplied by the quantity of electricity generated by the community facility that is assigned to the benefiting account pursuant to this section.
- (2) For community facilities that are interconnected at the distribution level, the bill credit shall be calculated based upon the time-of-use electricity generation and transmission component of the electricity usage charge of the benefiting account, multiplied by the quantity of electricity generated by the community facility that is assigned to the benefiting account pursuant to this section.
- (c) (1) Each subscription shall be sized to represent at least one kilowatt of the community facility's generating capacity.
- (2) A subscriber shall not purchase more than 2 megawatts of capacity in any single community facility. This subdivision does not apply to a local government.
- (3) A subscriber organization may beneficially own or operate a community facility for the subscribers to the community facility. A community facility may be built, owned, or operated by a third party under contract with a subscriber organization.
- (4) Prior to a sale of a subscription, the subscriber organization shall provide a disclosure to the customer that, at a minimum, includes all of the following:
- (A) A good faith estimate of the annual kilowatthours to be delivered by the community facility based on the size of the subscription.

SB 383 -12-

(B) A plain language explanation of the terms under which the bill credits will be calculated.

- (C) A plain language explanation of the contract provisions regulating the disposition or transfer of the subscription.
- (5) The commission shall not regulate the prices paid for the shares of a community facility.
- (d) Local governments may aggregate their loads for the purpose of participating in a community facility pursuant to this section.
- (e) (1) A subscriber organization shall provide to the electrical utility information on the identity of the benefiting accounts that will receive a bill credit pursuant to this section not less then 30 days prior to the commencement of the operations of the community facility.
- (2) For a local government that elects to aggregate its loads for the purpose of purchasing a subscription, if the local government has more than one benefiting account the owner or operator of the facility shall designate the specific accounts and percentage allocations to which the bill credit shall apply.
- (3) A subscriber organization shall be responsible for all costs of metering and shall retain production data for a period of 36 months. The subscriber organization shall provide real-time meter data to the electrical utility and shall make the data available to the subscribers upon request.
- (f) (1) Not more frequently than once per month, and upon providing the electrical utility with a minimum of 30 days, notice, the subscriber organization may change, add, or remove a benefiting account. If the owner of a benefiting account transfers service to a new benefiting account, the electrical utility shall transfer any credit remaining from the previous account to the new account.
- (2) A subscriber organization shall be responsible for providing the electrical utility, on a monthly basis, the percentage shares to be used to determine the bill credit to each benefiting account.
- (g) (1) An electrical utility shall bill a benefiting account for all electricity usage, and for each bill component, at the rate schedule applicable to the benefiting account, including any cost-responsibility surcharge or other cost recovery mechanism, as determined by the commission, to reimburse the Department of Water Resources for purchases of electricity pursuant to Division

13 SB 383

27 (commencing with Section 80000) of the Water Code. Community facilities shall not be subject to any other departing load charge.

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- (2) An electrical utility shall subtract the bill credit applicable to the benefiting account. The generation component credited to the benefiting account shall not include the cost-responsibility surcharge or other cost recovery mechanism, as determined by the commission, to reimburse the Department of Water Resources for purchases of electricity pursuant to Division 27 (commencing with Section 80000) of the Water Code. The electrical utility shall ensure that the subscriber receives the full bill credit to which it is entitled.
- (3) If during the billing cycle the electricity usage charge exceeds the bill credit, the benefiting account shall be billed for the difference.
- (4) If during the billing cycle the bill credit exceeds the electricity usage charges, the difference shall be carried forward as a financial credit to the next billing cycle.
- (5) After the electricity usage charge and the credit are determined for the last billing cycle of a 12-month period, the electrical utility shall apply the net surplus electricity attributed to the benefiting account as a bill credit for kilowatthours subsequently supplied by the electrical utility to the subscribers, if the electricity generated by the community facility during the 12-month period exceeds the electricity supplied by the electrical utility during that same period.
- (h) A subscriber organization shall provide not less than 120 days, notice to the electrical utility prior to the date the community facility becomes operational.
- (i) If a subscriber sells or cancels its interest in, or contract with the owner or operator of, the community facility, or sells the electricity generated by the community facility in a manner that is not authorized by this section, upon the date of that event, no further bill credit may be earned pursuant to this section, and only credit earned prior to that date may be assigned by the subscriber organization to a new benefiting account.
- (j) The electrical utility shall own the renewable energy credits generated by a community facility. The electricity generated by community facilities shall be taken into account in determining whether the electrical utility has met its renewables portfolio

SB 383 —14—

requirements under Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11)
 of Part 1.
 (k) This section does not require an electrical utility to purchase

- (k) This section does not require an electrical utility to purchase electricity from a community facility.
- (l) An electrical utility shall ensure that requests for establishment of bill credits and changes to benefiting accounts are processed in a time period not to exceed 30 days from the date it receives the request.
- (m) (1) A community facility may elect to provide energy only or energy and capacity. An electrical utility shall ensure that a request for a distribution level interconnection agreement from a community facility is processed in a time period not to exceed 90 working days from the date the electrical utility receives a completed application for interconnection.
- (2) All costs associated with interconnection are the responsibility of the owner or operator of the community facility. The community facility shall apply for transmission level interconnections through the Independent System Operator's generation interconnection process.
- (n) An electrical utility shall cooperate fully with community facilities to implement this section.
- (o) An electrical utility shall comply with the requirements applicable to commercial speech described in Public Utilities Commission Decision 10-05-050 as applied to the development, sale of subscriptions, and operation of community facilities. Community facilities may file a complaint with the commission for violation of this subdivision.
- SEC. 6. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.
- SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to stimulate the development of eligible renewable energy resources, as defined in Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Chapter 2.3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public

—15— SB 383

- 1 Utilities Code, by allowing local governments, businesses,
- 2 residents, and schools to invest in cost-effective, clean, and
- 3 renewable energy and to create local jobs.